

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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UNCLAS KUWAIT 2139

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECRE, BEXP, KU

SUBJ: CONSULTATNS INVITED SUBMIT DESIGNS FOR KUWAIT
STADIUM COMPLEX

RER: A) KUWAIT 1306 B) KUWAIT 0925 C) KUWAIT 0385

1. EMBOFF VISITED BY MR. TALBOT WILSON OF WILSON, CRANE,
AND ANDERSON ARCHITECTS FROM HOUSTON, TEXAS MAY 13-15.
THIS FIRM ALONHSWITH FIRM OF LLOYD, MORGAN, AND JONES
WERE INVITED IN 1969 TO BID ON 40,000 SEAT STADIUM
IN KUWAIT. WINNER OF THIS COMPETITION WAS DR. KENZO
TANGE (JAPAN). HOWEVER, KUWAIT HAD LIQUIDITY PROBLEMS
AND TANGE'S FEE WAS DEEMED TO HIGH, SO STADIUM WAS
NEVER BUILT. EMBASSY HAS SUBSEQUENTLY REQPORTED THAT
PROJECT BEING REVIVED AND HAS SUGGESTED MINISTRY OF
PUBLIC WORKS (MPW) UNDERSECRETARY BE INVITED TO US TO
SEE OUR STADIUMS SINCE HE HAS ALREADY TOURED MUNICH AND
HELSINKI STADIUMS IN EUROPE.

2. EMBASSY NEVER RECEIVED REPLY TO ITS THREE MESSAGES ON
THIS SUBJECT AND NOW APPEARS SUCH AN INVITATION WOULD
HAVE TO BE IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER PROJECTS OF INTEREST
TO KUWAIT BESIDES THE STADIUM SINCE WE HAVE RECEIVED
WORD THAT LLOYD, MORGAN, AND JONES HAVE RECEIVED INVITA-
TION ALONG WITH AT LEAST THREE OTHER FIRMS ORIGINALLY
INVITED FOR 1969 COMPETITION TO SUBMIT NEW PROPOSALS FOR
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REVAMPED STADIUM COMPLEX. WILSON RECEIVED MESSAGE TO

THIS EFFECT FROM HOUSTON WHILE HERE AND ASKED EMBOFF TO SECURE FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT PROJECT.

3. IN MEETING WITH RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL IN MPW EMBOFF TOLD NEW SPORTS COMPLEX WOULD INCLUDE 80,000 SEAT STADIUM WITH OVAL TRACK AND PLAYING FIELD, 15,000 SEATS WOULD BE COVERED: A 12,000 SEAT AIR-CONDITIONED FIELD HOUSE, AND A 4000 SEAT AREA WITH AN OLYMPIC SIZE SWIMMING POOL. ENTIRE COMPLEX WOULD BE SITUATED IN DOHA. OFFICIAL SAID INVITATIONS FOR SUCH COMPETITION WOULD GO OUT ANY DAY (AS STATED THEY EVIDENTLY ALREADY HAVE).

4. SINCE MINISTRY ALREADY HAD CONCEPTION OF STADIUM LAYOUT, OFFICIAL CLAIMED FEE WOULD BE DECISIVE IN CHOOSING FIRM. DECISION WILL BE MADE BY KUWAIT PLANNING BOARD CONSULTANT SELECTION COMMITTEE WHICH CHOOSES CONSULTANTS FOR ALL GOK WORK IN STRICT SECRECY. (ISSUANCE OF INVITATIONS AND SELECTIONS ARE RARELY ANNOUNCED.)

5. REQUEST COMMERCE CONTACT BOTH HOUSTON FIRMS WHICH HOPE TO SUBMIT JOINT PROPOSAL AND PASS ON TO THEM INFORMATION THAT COMPETITION IS SAME AS 1969 AND PRICE LIKELY TO PLAY DECISIVE ROLE IN CHOOSING DESIGN FIRM. SINCE NATURAL (AND RIGHTFUL) INCLINATION OF US FIRMS IS QUALITY OVER PRICE, WE OFTEN TEND TO LOSE SUCH CONTRACTS. IN FACT, IF ORIGINAL TANGE FEES HAD BEEN LESS COMPETITION MAY HAVE NOT BEEN NEEDED. EMBOFF ALSO PROMISED WILSON THAT HE WOULD ASCERTAIN ROLE OF MINISTRY SOCIAL AFFAIRS IN THIS PROJECT. OUR INFORMATION IS THAT MSA WILL OWN STADIUM FOR GOK BUT HAS ALREADY MADE ITS INPUT INTO PROJECT (DETERMINED SIZE) AND WILL PLAY NO FURTHER ROLE UNTIL STADIUM COMPLETED.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS TOO LATE TO INVITE MPW UNDERSECRETARY JUST FOR THE STADIUM PROJECT, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE UNDERSECRETARY RUNS A MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR MUCH OF THE PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION IN KUWAIT. BESIDES THE STADIUM COMPLEX HE WILL BE INCHARGE OF BUILDING AN AMUSEMENT PARK, EXPRESSWAYS, MINISTRY BUILDINGS, AND A HOST OF OTHER PROJECTS FOR WHICH US COMPANIES CAN PROVIDE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND EQUIPMENT. WE WOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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STILL BE VERY INTERESTED IN RECEIVING A REPLY TO OUR REFTELS STATING IF IT IS FEASIBLE TO ISSUE AN INVITATION TO THE UNDERSECRETARY AND WHAT, IF ANY, PART OF THE COST THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE OR OTHER US AGNEYCY CAN BEAR. WE BELIEVE THE GOODWILL GENERATED BY SUCH A TRIP ALONE WOULD BE WORTH THE TIME AND EFFORT IN ADDITION TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPOSE HIM FIRST-HAND TO SHOW PLACE PROJECTS WHICH PARALLEL WORK BEING UNDERTAKEN IN KUWAIT.

TALBOT WILSON EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN HOSTING
THE UNDERSECRETARY IF HE WERE TO VISIT HOUSTON.
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